

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1997

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, February 10. I further ask that immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, the phrase "the routine requests through the morning hour" are deemed to include the approval of the Journal to date, the waiving of resolutions coming over under the rule, the waiving of the call of the calendar, and the expiration of the morning hour.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until the hour of 1 p.m., for Senators to speak during the designated times: Senator DASCHLE or his designee from 12 to 12:30, Senator THOMAS or his designee from 12:30 to 1.

I further ask unanimous consent that at 1 o'clock the Senate resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget, and that Senator WELLSTONE then be recognized at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will continue the debate on the balanced budget amendment on Monday. Under a previous order, the Senate will resume debate on the Durbin amendment at 3:30 with a vote occurring on or in relation to that amendment at approximately 5:30 on Monday. Senators can, therefore, expect the next rollcall vote on Monday, February 10, at 5:30.

Prior to that debate, Senator WELLSTONE will be recognized to offer two amendments. It is my hope we will be able to complete all debate on Senator WELLSTONE's amendments during Monday's session, however those amendments will be voted on during Tuesday's session.

I also remind my colleagues that next week is the final week of business prior to the Presidents' Day recess. I hope we will be able to make continued progress on the balanced budget amendment, and it is possible the Senate will act on a number of nominations that will be available. In fact, we do have pending before us for consideration the nomination of Charlene Barshefsky to be the U.S. Trade Representative, although her nomination will involve probably a vote on a waiver of an existing law, and possibly an

amendment to that waiver that may be offered by Senator HOLLINGS or others; so we will have to keep that in mind. And we expect to have the nomination reported out for U.N. Ambassador Richardson.

We also may be voting next week on the mandatory provisions included in last year's omnibus appropriations bill involving population planning funding. That will depend on whether the House is able to complete its action early in the week. But we could very well get to a vote on that issue Wednesday or Thursday of next week because we would like to complete it, if we could, before the Presidents' Day recess.

We will continue, then, to have debate on amendments, with time agreements wherever possible, on the constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. So I urge my colleagues to be understanding next week.

We also will be out a good portion of Thursday morning for Ambassador Harriman's funeral, and therefore we probably won't be able to get started with votes until sometime after noon on Thursday. But we'll have a full day on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday next week before we go out for the Presidents' Day recess.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator DODD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Senate continued with the consideration of the joint resolution.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, first, I express my gratitude to the majority leader for graciously arranging at the end of the business time for me to address the issue at hand, and that is the proposed constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

I, like all of my colleagues, do not know a single Member of this body who disagrees with the proposition that we ought to be balancing the budget or getting us close to it and as quickly as we possibly can. I don't think there is any debate about the desired goal shared by everyone in this Chamber and the overwhelming majority of Americans in this country for a balanced budget. They do, I think, Mr. President, share this goal for wise reason.

I was asked the other day in a classroom in my home State of Connecticut by students, "Why is balancing the budget, why is there so much talk about that? What is the importance of that?" Maybe we take for granted that everyone understands the answer. We talk about it as if it were an end in and of itself, rather than the implications of a balanced budget for our Nation and, for that matter, people who live beyond our Nation.

The reason is that balancing the budget is not a goal in and of itself. It is what it does, what it creates, and that is, of course, a sound economy and an expanded economy. It creates jobs in the country and opportunities for people that wouldn't otherwise exist if we were operating with a mountain of debt that forced the U.S. Government to compete in the borrowing business with private institutions and individuals.

By balancing the budget, what we are doing is contributing significantly to the economic growth and the job creation that is absolutely essential if any nation is going to succeed, and particularly if we are going to be successful in the 21st century.

Balancing the budget has importance, but its real importance is not in and of itself, but rather what it contributes to the overall wealth and strength of our Nation.

So I begin these remarks, Mr. President, by stating what I think is the obvious—I hope it is the obvious—and that is that every Member of this body believes that balancing the Federal budget is an issue of critical importance to our Nation's future. Across the political spectrum, from the White House to the Capitol, among Democrats and Republicans, liberals, conservatives, moderates, whatever label people wish to place on themselves or are placed on them, there exists, I think, a broad-based consensus on the desire for bringing the Federal budget into balance.

In fact, in the last Congress, both the President and the Republican leaders agreed in principle to a 7-year balanced budget plan. The sticking point then was the details of those plans, not the notion of a balanced budget itself. So the debate today is not about whether we should balance the budget. That we agree on. The debate today, and will be over the coming days, is how we balance the budget.

The proponents of this constitutional amendment would have us believe otherwise. They would lead us to believe that the Congress is simply incapable of mustering the necessary courage to make the tough choices to balance the budget. They would have us believe that only by an amendment to the U.S. Constitution would we be forced, and future Congresses forced, to act.

Mr. President, when one considers our efforts at reducing the deficit over the past half dozen years, I think it is fair to say such an assertion lacks credibility. Over the past decade, the